

EDC Meeting Minutes 04/18/2007

Town of Hopkinton Economic Development Committee
Meeting
April 18, 2007 at 7 PM

In attendance:

Judy Hampe, Cettie Connolly, Susan Leadbeater, Glen Ohlund, Robert Houston, Bruce Ellsworth, Chris Lawless, John Herrick, Mark Bates.

Absent: Scott Flood, Bill Patton

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

The Chairman started the meeting off by welcoming our two guest Speakers, John DiNapoli and Deb Avery of the NH Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED).

John DiNapoli and Deb Avery gave a joint presentation. They briefly told us what each of their jobs is and then gave us a rundown on what DRED does. Basically they look to attract business to the State of NH and then retain those businesses in NH.

After their presentation the board members asked some questions relative to the specific plans that would affect Hopkinton. Mr. DiNapoli mentioned that the land in question (off of Burnham Intervale) is unique in that there is not much available developable land in Southern NH that has:

1. Easy access to the highway.
2. Access to sewer.
3. Access to water.
4. Access to gas.

The land in question in Hopkinton might have 3 of those 4 if the question of ramp access can be addressed.

Mr. DiNapoli stated that it could be one large business (1.2M sq Feet), it could be many smaller businesses, it could be a 'Condo Industrial Park'. There could be many potential businesses that would want access to that land....if ramps to the highway were available.

He mentioned that success that Raymond has had at Exit 4 on Rte 93.

Consolidated Grocers in the Keene Area was brought up. The building there is the approximately 1M sq feet for comparison.

Mr. DiNapoli said that first the town has to be to lay the groundwork and have many things done before he would 'put the word out' that space was available to be developed.

The Chairman asked Ms. Avery if there was anything that the EDC/Town should be doing for the businesses that are in town already. Ms. Avery stressed the importance of company visits.

The Chairman then thanked Mr. DiNapoli and Ms. Avery for coming.

Cettie Connolly motioned to approve the minutes. Glen Ohlund seconded the motion.
All voted in favor.

The committee briefly discussed if they should try to fill the position that is now open due to David Hayden's resignation, with a business from Contoocook. The committee thought at this time to leave the position open for now.

The committee looked over a handout from the NHDOT regarding exits. The board then looked at a map of Hopkinton

to discuss where the ramps could possibly go as well as which land would be available to be developed.

Some members of the committee will be meeting with NHDOT on the morning of May 2nd. This is a very preliminary meeting just to gather some facts to see if putting ramps in Rte 89 is even possible.

Sue Leadbeater gave the committee an update on the situation at Gould Hill.

Sue also gave us some information regarding the Current Use Board. There will be 3 meetings across the State to discuss the state of Current Use.

Cettie Connolly motioned to adjourn.

Glen Ohlund seconded the motion.

All voted in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55pm.

Chris Lawless

These minutes are unofficial until approved at the May 16, 2007 meeting.